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scheme of terminology, and was participated in by Dr. Fletcher, Messrs. Gatschet and Ward and Prof. Mason.

SIXTIETH REGULAR MEETING, December 5th, 1882.

Dr. ROBERT FLETCHER, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Mr. J. D. MCGUIRE, of Ellicott city, read a paper on "SOAPSTONE QUARRIES AND ABORIGINAL TOOLS FOR WORKING SOAPSTONE."

The speaker alluded to Paul Schumacher and others who have written upon the subject, correcting some of their errors, especially those that intimate the use of metal. Mr. McGuire has found in the quarries the very implements of stone with which the mineral was worked. A résumé of the principal quarries known was given, with the observation that we know more of the lake-dwellings of Switzerland than of interesting relics lying at our very doors. No perfect vessels have ever been discovered. The process of detaching and finishing the vessels consisted of several distinct steps: 1. Pecking a solid block from the quarry; 2. Shaping the outside by bold chopping; 3. Excavation by pecking. The tools are rude, but eminently adapted to their work. The pits are not deep, and are now filled with the debris of centuries. The vessels vary greatly in size, outline, thickness, handles, &c. The tools are of black granite, and seldom of quartz, which latter Mr. McGuire thinks unfit for the purpose. The tools are picks, mauls, axes, adzes, and celts.

The discussion was participated in by Messrs. Hoffman, Reynolds, and Mason.

Prof. CYRUS THOMAS presented a communication on "MOUND EXPLORATIONS IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS."

He referred to an enclosure and mounds in Union county, in the southern part of Illinois, on the Mississippi river. Prof. Thomas examined one of the mounds and found it to contain layers of burned clay and sand, and in the centre large masses of charcoal. Further researches were made in Alexander county in an *atelier*, or place for the working of flint. Quarries are in the neighborhood, and an interesting group of slab graves in a mound, arranged in

three consecutive tiers. A ditch was cut through the mound, and thirty to forty graves unearthed, containing fifty skeletons and many implements of wood, bone, stone, and copper. After the descriptive portion of his paper Prof. Thomas went on to draw his deductions from his explorations, comparing them with similar ones made by Professor Putnam, near Nashville, Tennessee.

The distribution of the stone graves was for the first time accurately given, showing the practice to have been very limited in area. Prof. Thomas drew attention to the agreement of distribution in these graves with that of the Shawnees. In closing Prof. Thomas said he was of the opinion that the stone graves show decided marks of European influence.

Mr. REYNOLDS recited his experiences in the Shenandoah Valley, especially with reference to stone graves and the Shawnee Indians.

Remarks were also made by Colonel Seely, Mr. McGuire, and Mr. Holmes.

SIXTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING, December 19, 1882.

Colonel GARRICK MALLERY, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Dr. ROBERT FLETCHER, Vice-President of the Section of Somatology, delivered the annual address for the Section, choosing for his subject "TATTOOING AMONG CIVILIZED PEOPLE." The address was illustrated by a great number of photographs and drawings.

TATTOOING AMONG CIVILIZED PEOPLE.

The custom of tattooing presents itself from two points of view: the medico-legal and the anthropological. It is with the latter, mainly, that we have to do to-night.

The title of this paper will have indicated that a study of tattooing among savage tribes is not included in its scope. Travelers have described and artists have illustrated the intricate patterns which adorn or disfigure the bodies of the natives of Polynesia or Africa; and the mummied heads of New Zealanders, exhibiting elaborate ornamentation of a high degree of excellence, are common in our museums. If such work be compared with the tattooing of civilized life, the superiority, from an artistic point of view, is generally with the former. The designs which the sailor, the